

Latest as of February 1, 2021.

POLS2560 Politics of Asia

Spring 2021, MWF 11:00-11:50

Professor Nori Katagiri

Office: McGannon 152

Office hours: on zoom, by appointment

Classroom: on zoom

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Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to explore some of the most important works on the politics of Asia. The regions we cover include Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and parts of South Asia. We will discuss a wide range of topics that determine major courses of action for many governments and societies in Asia. We will also investigate US relations with countries in Asia. In this course, we seek to

- explore the past, present, and future of Asian politics, economy, and security affairs
- analyze the nature of US relationship with Asia
- understand the role of power, resources, and ideas in the formation and application of national and regional interests, and
- hone critical thinking on political events taking place in Asia

Required Texts

The following two books are required for the course. You need to buy precisely the editions mentioned here. Copies have been ordered to the university bookstore. There are supplementary articles and book chapters in addition to textbook use.

- Derek McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics, 2nd Edition* (Boulder, Colo: Lynne Rienner, 2016).
- Damien Kingsbury, *Politics in Contemporary Southeast Asia: Authority, Democracy and Political Change, 1st Edition* (London: Routledge, 2016).

Course requirements and grading

Attendance: 20% of final grade

The course complie

absence is excused only if

note, copy of flight tickets, etc.) or university-sponsored activities within 48 hours of absence. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not.

Reading summary: 10% of final grade

Each student will deliver a 10-minute oral summary of the readings for one of the days designated with RS (Reading Summary). If you fail to deliver a presentation, you will automatically receive the score of zero for this assignment.

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Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to wear masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks at any time during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.

Note: Accordingly, no consumption of any food will be allowed in class.

Students who do not comply with a request by a SLU instructor to wear a mask in accordance with the *Interim Policy on Face Masks* may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this

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4. Students are responsible for notifying each instructor of an absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible.
5. As a temporary amendment to the current [University Attendance Policy](#), all absences due to illness or an isolation/quar (effective August 2020 through May 2021).

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- February 1 (M) Background**
- McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics*, pp. 1-25.
 - *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (January 1974), pp. 341-348.
- February 3 (W) How things (may) work in Asia**
- Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973), pp. 412-425, 432-442.
 - James Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985), pp. xv-xix, 1-27.
- February 5 (F) The United States and Asia (RS)**
- McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics*, pp. 31-49.
- February 8 (M) China's domestic politics 1 (RS)**
- McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics*, pp. 51-73.
- February 10 (W) China's domestic politics 2 (RS)**
- Hong Kong and Taiwan Confront Rising Chinese
Current History, Vol. 119, No. 818 (September 2020), pp. 234-240.
 - -
Asian Affairs, Vol. 50, No. 4 (2019).
- February 12 (F) Chinese foreign policy (RS)**
- Andrew Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China's Search for Security* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014), pp. 3-36.
- February 15 (M) Taiwan (RS)**
- McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics*, pp. 159-171.
 - Kharis Templeman *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (July 2020).
- February 17 (W) No class (February break)**
- February 19 (F) Sino-US relations (RS)**
- McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics*, pp. 103-123.
 - *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (2019), pp. 93-114.
- February 22 (M) Japan's domestic politics (RS)**
- McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics*, pp. 75-88.

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February 24 (W) Japan's foreign policy (RS)

- McDougall, *Asia Pacific in World Politics*, pp. 88-100.
- Vol. 99, No.6 (November/December 2020), pp. 123-32.

Foreign Affairs,

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- *Asia Policy*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (April 2020), pp. 60-66.
- *Asia Policy*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (April 2020), pp. 76-83.

March 19 (F)

Asia

